



March 4, 2009

To: Transportation Committee

From: Terry Edelstein, President/CEO

Re: **Testimony on S.B. 428 AAC Safety of Individuals Being Transported by State Agencies**

Please accept this testimony regarding S.B. 428. While we appreciate the intent of the bill to protect clients, this bill adds a new series of responsibilities for state agencies and their private provider contractors.

The Connecticut Community Providers Association represents organizations that provide services and supports for people with disabilities and significant challenges including children and adults with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental, and physical disabilities.

Our members are involved in transporting clients on a daily basis, for example, to and from group homes to employment programs, day programs and recreational activities, to and from vocational training programs to employment sites, to and from school to after school therapeutic programs.

The agencies providing this transportation are responsible for assuring the licensing, maintenance and insurance of the company vehicles used to transport clients. These agencies must adhere to DMV inspection requirements.

These same agencies are responsible for assuring that the staff driving clients have valid driver's licenses and endorsements for the types of vehicles they are driving.

If staff cars are utilized, the agencies are responsible for assuring that the owners of these cars hold adequate insurance.

The level of detail recommended in S.B. 428 far exceeds current DMV licensing and inspection requirements and sets up an unfunded mandate on both the funding agency and the provider agency that will ultimately have to assume the obligation of insuring that the recommended safety provisions are enforced.

We would be glad to work with the Committee to discuss alternatives to assure client safety.

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